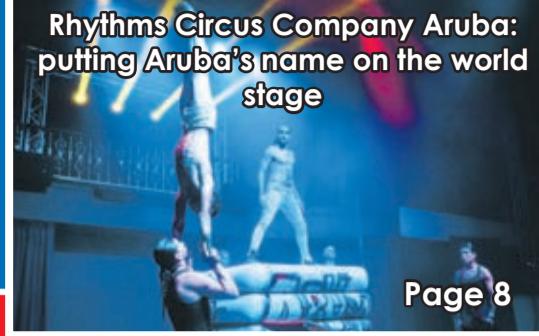


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Page 8

Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

More states expect schools to keep trans girls off girls teams as K-12 classes resume

By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — As children across the U.S. head back to classes and practices for fall sports, four more states are expecting their K-12 schools to keep transgender girls off their girls teams. Kansas, North Dakota and Wyoming had new laws in place restricting transgender athletes before classes resumed, and a Missouri law takes effect at the end of this month, bringing the number of states with restrictions to 23. North Carolina could enact a ban later this month, and Ohio could follow in the fall. A few laws, including ones in Arizona and West Virginia, are on hold because of federal lawsuits.

Continued on Page 2



A flag supporting LGBTQ+ rights decorates a desk on the Democratic side of the Kansas House of Representatives during a debate, March 28, 2023, at the Statehouse in Topeka, Kan.

Associated Press

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More states expect schools to keep trans girls off girls teams as K-12 classes resume

Continued from Front

This year's new restrictions are part of a larger wave of legislation across the U.S. against transgender rights. Republican legislators in some states have banned gender-affirming care for minors, restricted transgender people's use of school and public restrooms, limited what public schools can teach about gender and sexuality and barred schools from requiring the use of a transgender student's preferred pronouns. The sports laws have been imposed since 2020, and most are aimed at transgender girls. A majority cover less formal intramural contests organized within a single school's student body as well as contests among different schools, and some restrict transgender boys as well. Almost all say other students and their parents can sue schools that don't enforce the restrictions.

Lawmakers expect a child's earliest birth certificate to determine which sports teams they can join. Principals and coaches are expected to be the enforcers. "Those are uncomfortable conversations," said Jeanne Woodbury, interim executive director of the

LGBTQ+ rights group Equality Arizona. "Everyone is going through that process." She added: "For trans kids, it's never been a walk in the park, but now they have this law to contend with on top of everything else."

In Oklahoma, where a law has been in place since 2022, athletes or their parents must file an annual affidavit "acknowledging the biological sex of the student at birth."

Kansas and other states expect school officials to review a child's earliest birth certificate if questions arise about an athlete's eligibility.

Bill Faflick, executive director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, said his state's law has been greeted by a "matter of fact" acceptance in rules seminars for administrators and coaches.

"It has not been met with any resistance and has not been met with any outpouring of support or opposition, one way or the other," Faflick said.

Even before the laws against transgender girls on girls teams passed, some states largely blocked the practice by handling questions or concerns on a case-by-case level at the school or state athletic as-

sociation level. Supporters of the restrictions argue that they're protecting fair competition and scholarship opportunities for young women that took decades to win. They say that well before puberty, boys have physical advantages over girls in speed, strength and lung capacity.

"It's a puzzlement to me that more people aren't feeling sympathy for the girls whose sports careers are ruined," said Tom Horne, the elected Republican state school superintendent in Arizona, who is defending his state's law in federal court.

Doctors, parents, and LGBTQ+ rights advocates counter that boys' physical advantages come with a surge in testosterone during puberty — changes gender-affirming care blocks. Critics also argue that transgender athletes are so few that schools and associations governing school sports can handle their individual cases without a state law.

For example, in Kansas, the State High School Activities Association recorded 11 transgender athletes during the 2022-23 school year, and three were trans girls. Before Florida's law



Bill Faflick, the executive director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, speaks during a meeting of its executive board, April 26, 2023, in Topeka, Kan.

Associated Press

took effect in 2021, its High School Athletic Association had cleared 13 transgender students to play in the previous eight years.

Becky Pepper-Jackson appeared to be the only transgender girl seeking to play girls' sports in West Virginia in 2021 when the then-11-year-old and her mother, Heather Jackson, sued the state over its law. Because of their lawsuit, the West Virginia law is on hold, and Becky, now a 13-year-old entering eighth grade, threw the discus and the shot put in seven track meets this spring. The state is trying to persuade a federal appeals court to let it enforce its law, and in a filing last

month, it cited the longer distances Becky threw this year as a reason. The state said any time another girl finished behind Becky in either event — more than 180 times — the other athlete had been unfairly "displaced."

Jackson said the state knows her daughter only "on paper," and Becky improved by training relentlessly at home with her own equipment.

"As a parent, all we want for our children is for them to be successful and happy, period," Jackson told The Associated Press. "That should be an opportunity for everybody, every time, everywhere in this country." □



Semi-automatic guns are displayed for sale at Capitol City Arms Supply, Jan. 16, 2013, in Springfield, Ill.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed a law banning firearms advertising that officials determine produces a public safety threat or appeals to children, militants or oth-

Illinois governor signs ban on firearms advertising allegedly marketed to kids and militants

sponsibility Act, making Illinois the eighth state to approve legislation that rolls back legal protections for firearms manufacturers or distributors. The legislation comes after the deadliest six months of mass killings recorded in the United States since at least 2006 — all but one of which involved guns.

Pritzker signed the bill alongside lawmakers and gun control advocates at Gun Sense University, an annual training conference of more than 2,000 Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers and survivors, host-

ed by Everytown for Gun Safety.

"We hold opioid manufacturers accountable. Vaping companies accountable. Predatory lenders accountable. Gun manufacturers shouldn't get to hide from the law — and now, they won't be able to," Pritzker said in a statement.

The law took effect immediately.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul, a key backer of the law, said "by signing this legislation, Gov. Pritzker has taken an important step to protect consumers and increase public safety."

Democratic state Rep. Jen-

nifer Gong-Gershowitz, the bill's House sponsor, said any companies participating in "depicting guns as tools for carnage" will face serious penalties.

Opening the door to such court challenges is part of ongoing efforts by Democratic lawmakers in Illinois and elsewhere to eliminate gun violence, made more complicated by the U.S. Supreme Court's expansion of gun rights a year ago. Pritzker also signed a ban on semi-automatic weapons this year, a law that gun-rights advocates continue to challenge in federal court. □

'No Labels' movement says it could offer bipartisan presidential ticket in 2024

By GARY D. ROBERTSON

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A national political movement that could offer a bipartisan presidential ticket in 2024 as an alternative to major-party nominees said Monday it has now won ballot access in 10 states, after North Carolina election officials formally granted official status to a "No Labels" affiliate.

The State Board of Elections voted 4-1 on Sunday to recognize the No Labels Party as an official North Carolina party following a successful petition effort. It joins four other recognized parties with which voters can now choose to be registered and field candidates. The new North Carolina party is linked to a national No Labels effort that lists a wide array of mostly centrist political leaders backing it. They include former North Carolina GOP Gov. Pat McCrory, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., and former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, a former Democrat who became an independent.

No Labels is poised to offer a bipartisan ticket for president and vice president if Democrats and Republicans "select unreasonably divisive presidential nomi-



John Holman, of Denver, Colo., right, and others with the group "No Labels" take part in a rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 18, 2011.

Associated Press

nees." North Carolina, usually considered a battleground state, has 16 electoral votes at stake.

The other states are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota and Utah.

Reaching 10 states is "a historic victory for Americans who have said loud and clear they want more choices at the ballot box. The spirit of democracy is winning in America today," civil rights leader Benjamin

Chavis, a North Carolina native and national co-chair of No Labels, said in a news release Monday.

There is no named ticket yet for No Labels. Group leaders have said it would stand down if there's no clear path to victory next year. But some Democrats are worried that won't happen, leading unintentionally to the election of Republican Donald Trump. National left-leaning groups have been working to derail the group's presi-

dential ambitions.

North Carolina state law says that to be recognized, a party must collect signatures from registered voters equal to 0.25% of the total number of voters who voted in the last election governor in 2020, or just under 13,900 signatures. State election officials agreed that No Labels provided over 14,800 signatures, and also met a requirement that at least 200 signatures each come from three congressional districts.

The other official North Carolina parties are the Democratic, Republican, Green and Libertarian parties. Voters also can register as unaffiliated, which represents the largest bloc in the state.

Board chair Alan Hirsch and member Jeff Carmon, both Democrats, joined Republicans Four Eggers and Kevin Lewis in voting for the official recognition. Democratic member Siobhan O'Duffy Millen voted no. The official recognition followed questions seeking more information on No Labels, particularly its affiliation with the national movement, and whether it truly met the definition of a party.

The board also was interested in whether the party's signature collectors properly informed signers of the "general purpose and intent" of the party, as state law requires.

No Labels presented affidavits from collectors stating that they were instructed to share in part it was a party "to bring all the parties together to get things done in Washington through a unity ticket" and that the petition "allows a third party to run candidates in the presidential election." □

Biden says auto workers need 'good jobs that can support a family'

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is asking major U.S. automakers and their workers' union to reach an agreement that takes "every possible step to avoid painful plant closings" as the sector transitions to electric vehicles. The president has not yet been endorsed by the United Auto Workers as he seeks reelection, despite his broad support from organized labor going into the 2024 campaign. The UAW represents 146,000 workers at Ford, General Motors and Stellantis, which are

commonly known as the big three automakers. The workers' contracts expire at 11:59 p.m. Sept. 14.

Biden said in a statement Monday that as the market moves away from gasoline-powered vehicles, the auto industry still must provide "good jobs that can support a family" and ensure that "transitions are fair and look to retool, reboot, and rehire in the same factories and communities at comparable wages, while giving existing workers the first shot to fill those jobs."

"The UAW helped create the American middle class and as we move forward in

this transition to new technologies, the UAW deserves a contract that sustains the middle class," Biden said.

GM said in a statement that it's bargaining in "good faith" with the UAW on "a contract that provides job security and supports good wages and benefits for our team members while enabling companies to compete successfully domestically and globally."

Shawn Fain, president of the union, has asked for an end to different wage tiers among workers. He is also seeking double-digit pay raises and restoration of cost-of-living pay, de-

fined benefit pensions for all workers, and restoring retiree health coverage.

The union has proposed a 32-hour workweek, instead of the conventional 40. □



The Ram 1500 Revolution electric battery powered pickup truck is displayed on stage during the Stellantis keynote at the CES tech show on Jan. 5, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Chicago's newly selected top cop says reducing violence among top priorities

By MICHAEL TARM

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A Chicago native pegged as the city's next police superintendent said Monday at his introductory news conference that his top priorities include finding ways to tamp down violent crime. Larry Snelling, 54, a former police patrolman-turned-head of the department's counterterrorism division, cited his own experiences in calling for a comprehensive strategy to address the violence.

"I've worked in some of the most violent beats in the city," he said.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson introduced Snelling at the news conference as his choice to lead the 12,000-officer police force in the nation's third-largest city.

"He's just a rare individual," Johnson said.

Snelling was raised on Chicago's South Side in areas he later worked as a patrolman and then as a commander.

He joined the department in 1992.

Snelling was a sergeant until just five years ago, and he told reporters Monday it was still hard to fathom that he'd risen through depart-



Chief Larry Snelling speaks during a news conference at City Hall after Mayor Brandon Johnson chose Snelling to be the next superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

ment ranks and was now slated to become its top cop.

"At no point did I ever think I would find myself in this position," he said.

Snelling has been chief of the department's bureau of counterterrorism, which coordinates with the Office of Emergency Management and Communication and other city agencies, since 2022.

The superintendent's job

is a notoriously tough one and many past heads of Chicago police have lasted only a few years amid pressure from interest groups, including the local police union. Among his other priorities, said Snelling, was building trust with communities historically suspicious of police, ensuring high-level training for officers and attending to officers' mental well-being.

Associated Press

"In order for our officers to love someone else, we have to love them," he said.

Johnson and Snelling spoke in general terms and offered no specifics on police strategies, though Snelling did briefly mention the need to build on the use of technology in fighting crime.

That has, at least in the past, been a point of disagreement.

Johnson and Snelling differed on the use of a gun-detection technology called ShotSpotter, which its critics say isn't fully reliable and disproportionately targets Black neighborhoods.

As a candidate, Johnson criticized the network and suggested ending its use in Chicago. Snelling has previously defended the system as a valuable policing tool. When a reporter asked Johnson Monday about those contrasting views, Johnson said only that he and Snelling were committed to "listening to each other."

While crime in Chicago often focuses on murders and shootings, the numbers so far in 2023 are down in both categories by 5% and 10%, respectively, according to the most recent department crime statistics. However, overall major crime rates are up 35% so far this year over 2022.

Both Johnson and Snelling alluded to compliance with a court-monitored department overhaul plan, called a consent decree. It, among other things, calls for more community policing and expanded training on the use of force. □

Indiana teen who shot teacher and student in 2018 is ordered to treatment center



Law enforcement vehicles are seen behind a school sign after a shooting at Noblesville West Middle School in Noblesville, Ind., May 25, 2018.

Associated Press

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A teenager who opened fire at a central Indiana middle school in 2018, wounding another student and a teacher, should go to a residential treatment center, a judge ordered Monday. Hamilton Superior Court Judge Michael A. Casati ordered that the now-18-year-old be held in the Hamilton County Juvenile Service Center for 120 days while a probation department finds a suitable secure residential facility for him, news outlets reported. "The juvenile is a risk to the community," Casati said in

a five-page order. A hearing has been scheduled for Oct. 4 to determine where he will be placed.

He will be held in the facility for at least a year. The judge ordered him to appear for a permanency hearing in June 2024. Under Indiana law, he can be detained as a juvenile until the day before he turns 22. The teenager, who was 13 at the time of the shooting, had been detained since shortly after he opened fire at Noblesville West Middle School in May 2018. He shot a seventh-grade science teacher and another

13-year-old student. The teacher, Jason Seaman, tackled and pinned him to the ground.

Seaman was shot three times, and the student, Ella Whistler, was shot seven times. No one was killed. The teen was preparing to be released to his family when on March 20, prosecutors say, he assaulted a female counselor at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility by "fist-bumping" her breast, then joking about it with other juveniles. He was 17 at the time and was charged as a juvenile with battery. □

North Korea's Kim orders sharp increase in missile production

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un again toured major munitions factories and ordered a drastic increase in production of missiles and other weapons, state media said Monday, as the South Korean and U.S. militaries announced they will begin major drills next week to hone their joint capability against the North's evolving nuclear threats.

Kim's push to produce more weapons also comes as U.S. officials believe Russia's defense minister recently talked with North Korea about selling more weapons to Russia for its war with Ukraine.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim visited factories producing tactical missiles, mobile launch platforms, armored vehicles and artillery shells on Friday and Saturday. He visited a spate of other munitions factories in early August.

During a stop at the missile factory, Kim set a goal to "drastically boost" production capacity so the facility can mass produce missiles to meet the needs of front-line military units, KCNA



In this undated photo provided on Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, rides on an armored vehicle during his Aug. 11-12 visit to a military factory in North Korea.

said.

"The qualitative level of war preparations depends on the development of the munitions industry and the factory bears a very important responsibility in speeding up the war preparations of the (North) Korean People's Army," Kim said, according to the report. Visiting other factories, Kim called for building more modern missile launch trucks and said there is an

urgent need to boost production of large-caliber multiple rocket launcher shells "at an exponential rate," the report said. Kim also drove a new utility combat armored vehicle, KCNA said. Kim has been focusing on enlarging his nuclear and missile arsenals since his high-stakes diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. Since the start of 2022, Kim's military has conduct-

ed more than 100 missile tests, many of them in the name of warning the U.S. and South Korea over their expansion of joint military training exercises. Many experts say Kim eventually aims to use his modernized weapons arsenals to wrest U.S. concessions, such as sanctions relief, whenever diplomacy resumes with Washington.

North Korea could perform more weapons tests soon

Associated Press

as the U.S. and South Korea are set to start their summer military exercises next Monday. North Korea calls the U.S.-South Korean training a practice for an invasion. The allies say they have no intentions of attacking North Korea.

KCNA quoted Kim as saying North Korea must have "an overwhelming military force and get fully prepared for coping with any war" with the power to "surely annihilate" its enemies.

The U.S.-South Korean drills, called Ulchi Freedom Shield, is a computer-simulated command post exercise. During this year's exercise that is scheduled to run through until Aug. 31, the allies said they'll also conduct large-scale field training events, which will reportedly be the largest of their kind in recent years. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson, Lee Sung Joon, told reporters that this year's UFS drills are aimed at further strengthening the allies' response capabilities by performing exercises based on scenarios that reflect North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile capabilities and other regional security situations. □

Sweden calls for vigilance abroad after Quran desecrations and protests

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — A senior Swedish official said Monday Swedes abroad and businesses linked to Sweden "should observe increased vigilance and caution," following recent Quran burnings in the country and protests in the Muslim world.

Henrik Landerholm, Sweden's National Security Adviser, said there are signs of "a heightened threat" to the country and to Swedish interests abroad, adding the security situation has worsened.

In a statement, Landerholm said that "representatives of terrorist groups have called for attacks against Sweden."

States and other actors have helped amplify such messages." He said extremists who previously considered Sweden a "legitimate target" now consider it a "priority." The statement did not identify those involved.

Landerholm said there also were "indications" that groups are planning other acts against Swedish interests abroad, and cited the storming of Sweden's Embassy in Baghdad last month and an attempted attack on the diplomatic mission in Beirut last week. The Swedish government and relevant authorities "are monitoring developments, taking a variety

of measures and working closely with international partners to protect Swedes and Swedish interests abroad and to counteract the hate messages being spread about Sweden," he said.

This month, Sweden stepped up border controls and identity checks at crossing points.

A recent string of public Quran desecrations by a handful of anti-Islam activists in Sweden and more recently in neighboring Denmark has sparked angry demonstrations in Muslim countries.

Sweden does not have a law specifically prohibiting the burning or desecration

of the Quran or other religious texts. Like many Western countries, it doesn't

have any blasphemy laws; Sweden's were abandoned in the 1970s. □



Supporters of a radical Islamist party 'Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan' burn the representation of Swedish flag during a rally to denounce burning of Islam's holy book 'Quran', in Karachi, Pakistan, on July 7, 2023.

Associated Press

Rights group urges rapid intervention to end gang violence in Haiti

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— A human rights group urged the international community on Monday to intervene quickly to end spiraling violence by gangs in Haiti as it detailed the brutal rapes and killings committed in the troubled nation's capital.

The call by Human Rights Watch comes as Haiti awaits a response from the U.N. Security Council to its request in October for the immediate deployment of an international armed force to fight the surge in violence.

"The longer that we wait and don't have this response, we're going to see more Haitians being killed, raped and kidnapped, and more people suffering without enough to eat," said Ida Sawyer, the group's crisis and conflict director, who visited Haiti to compile a report on the violence.

The United States said earlier this month that it would introduce a U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing Kenya to lead a multinational police force to fight gangs in Haiti. However, no timetable for such a resolution was given.

"The main message we want to get across is that Haitian people need support now," Sawyer said. "We heard again and again that the situation is



Demonstrators run past tires set on fire during a protest against insecurity in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023.

worse now in Haiti than it's been at any time people can remember."

Gangs have overpowered police, with experts estimating they now control some 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince. There are only about 10,000 police officers for the country's more than 11 million people. More than 30 officers were killed from January to June, and more than 400 police facilities are inoperative because of criminal attacks, according to Human Rights Watch.

In addition to the ongoing violence, an estimated 5.2

million Haitians are in need

of humanitarian assistance, a 20% increase from last year.

Sawyer also called for strict oversight of Kenyan police if they are deployed. In Port-au-Prince on Monday, several thousand protesters marched to decry the rise in violence and demand government action. Police later fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. There were no immediate reports of any injuries.

Among those planning to march was Cassandre Petit, a 35-year-old mother who owns a small convenience store.

"You don't know when

you're going to get robbed or shot for bubble gum money that you made that day," she said and accused the government of making empty promises to improve people's lives. She added that she rarely sees police patrolling the streets and hopes an international police force will arrive soon so "I'll be able to breathe for a little while." Human Rights Watch also urged the U.S., Canada, France and other governments to support the creation of a transitional government, with Ariel Henry holding power since the July 2021 assassination of

President Jovenel Moïse. The group also recommended that the U.S. and France recognize their responsibility "for their historic harms and abuses with ongoing impacts and work towards the development of an effective and genuine reparations process led by Haitian people."

Haiti became the world's first Black republic in 1804, with France demanding a 150 million gold franc "independence debt" to compensate for lost slaves and land. The debt crippled the country, which finished paying a reduced debt of 90 million gold coins to French and American banks in 1947.

The report details abuse and violence that occurred in four communities in metropolitan Port-au-Prince from January to April of this year, based on interviews with dozens of victims and witnesses.

A 33-year-old mother of four said she was beaten and raped when she left early one morning in April to sell goods at the market. She said her sister, a mother of three children, was with her and was killed because she resisted an attempt to rape her.

"They burned her in my presence, and her corpse was placed in a pile with other corpses," the woman said. □

Railway bridge collapses in southeastern Norway after last week's torrential rain



A section of a railway bridge collapsed into the water over the Laagen River in Ringebo, Norway, Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A railway bridge in southeastern Norway that ran across a river swollen by torrential rain collapsed on Monday, authorities said.

Bane NOR, a government agency in charge of the Norwegian rail infrastructure, said the central section of the steel truss bridge over the Laagen River slid into the water "due to damage to the central bridge foundation." All traffic across the bridge was halted a week ago out of fear that it would col-

lapse because of the large volume of water.

"Bane NOR had just begun investigating the extent of the damage to the bridge on Monday morning when the middle part slid into the river," the agency said in a statement.

The bridge is 172.5 meters (189 yards) long with three spans. It has a direct foundation on the riverbed, and was built in 1957.

Eivind Bjurstrøm at Bane NOR said that the collapse of the bridge "never involved a danger to life and

health, which I am very happy about."

The rain led to the evacuation of thousands in southeastern Norway, where a huge amount of water, littered with broken trees, debris and trash, thundered down the usually serene rivers after days of torrential rain.

Storm Hans battered northern Europe, leading to transportation disruption, flooding and power cuts across the Nordic and Baltic region. At least three people were killed. □

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



The Ayo Rock Formation

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

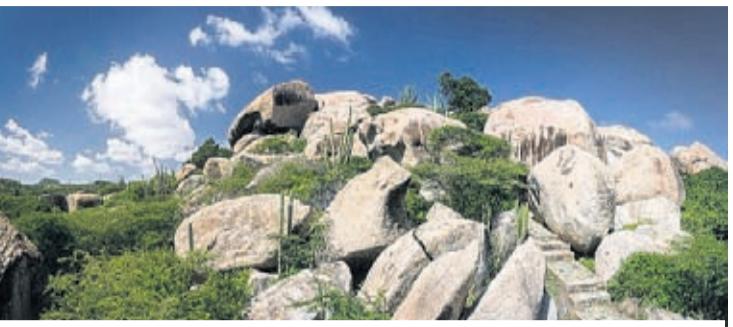
The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each

other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock for-

mation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the



The Casibari Rock Formation



The Ayo Rock Formation

busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of

the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat boulder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100

Police Tipline: 11141

Ambulance: 911

Fire Dept: 115

Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000

San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally

though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Taxis

Prices for taxi fare are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visi-

tors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.



Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. □



out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively

visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors Mr. Louis & Michael Risbrook from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casinobestowed the Ambassador certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked



them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and their home-away-from-home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

Weather, sand, & sea

"Reuniting with our Aruba family and friends"

The wonderful treatment from the staff members at the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino

"Our wedding anniversary celebration"

"ARUBA"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay be-

fore leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



Episode 35

Crecientia cujete: Our Calbas Tree

Since the beginning of time people have collected and selected all kinds of things and for an infinite use and reasons. All this selecting and discarding contributed in engineering man's success into organized social groups of civilization. For example the world's vegetation; plants were used to build shelters, bridges and transportation, for food, medicine, color pigments, to weave clotting and ropes, for musical instruments, tools and weapons, and all sorts of unimaginable things.

In this episode we will focus on a very special tree that played a vital role in the conquest of the Caribbean and survival of its habitants in general. Etnia Nativa's selection in this episode is regarding a very important plant which you can find in Aruba's country side and emphasizing specially on its fruit it gives. This mythological plant mentioned in Popol Vuh, codex, Mayan literature, the so called masters of the infra-world who killed and decapitated Vucub- Hunahpú, then telling to go put his severed scull in a tree that was planted down the road, this tree that had never ever bloomed. This action of placing the skull in and between the branches provoked an instant burst of green rounded fruits that covered the whole tree. A fruit no living be-



ing had ever seen before. That's why in some regions of Mexico they still call the calbas, Crecientia cujate head of Vucub- Hunahpú.

The Calbas as a practical, reusable, bio recipient has been incredibly valuable over thousands of years, also as a musical instrument or in healing in coming-of-age rituals, festivals and ceremonies. The pulp of the inner fruit is cooked in to syrup to guard against flu and upset stomach. It is also said that this same white pulp full of flat black seeds is also used against ticks and fleas by smearing the whole animal in it, then let it dry on its coat, let it cure and then rinse off with water.

This amazing tree is considered to be a very sacred tree for many ethnic cultural groups in the Americas. Calbas tree seeds have been dispersed all over the tropics during the colonial times for its practicality, interesting shape and reusable resistance. Unfortunately for our island, ne tree less it too many. This fascinating tree has also suffered discrimination lately by those who considers it as something that belongs to the poor, therefore cut down in demands of constructing new buildings and infrastructure without any consideration or respect.

We as a small island should soon come to means, wake up and take action and responsibility to guard our

nature. Educate ourselves that these trees flowers only during night time and are manly pollinated by bats whose habitats are also threatened by the exactly same expansive demand of land.

We should make it clear that the calbas has a great importance in the lives and mythology of the Aruban and Meso-Amerindian history and societies, and that plant in general carries very practical uses. The calbas fruit is utilized today in many kitchens and to make beautiful and interesting hand crafts and souvenirs.

This round or spherical fruits has a hard shell which can be separated of the pulp

and transformed into a recipient, a flask or a maraca. In some places in Mexico oil, sugar and ethanol is extracted from the pulp.

Arubans who still carry information regarding the traditional application and care taking of islands ethnobotanical heritage, should be taken in consideration to recorded their knowledge providing material for further studies for the coming generations. Finding new ways to share ethnobotanical wisdom would surely benefit many when presented in a way it could be applied in a simple and contemporary context of practice.

The common looking tree grows modest in size with a lot of noted elongated branches, has tear- drop leaves that can fall off, leaving the tree leafless during the dry season. Every tree gives one size and shape of fruit. Flowering occurs directly out of stem and branches. These trees are still fairly common on the island. Many healing properties have been recorded through the ages from different regions and Amerindian ethnic groups which could reveal potent cures.

We invite you to make your appointment at Etnia Nativa and find out about our stories, authentic Aruban stories. □



Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

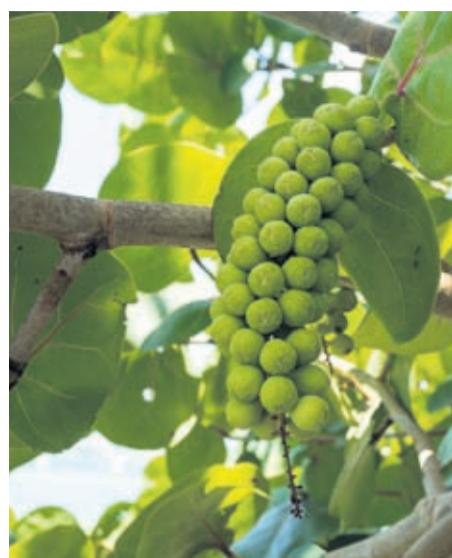
This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito



This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vi-

amin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pompuna



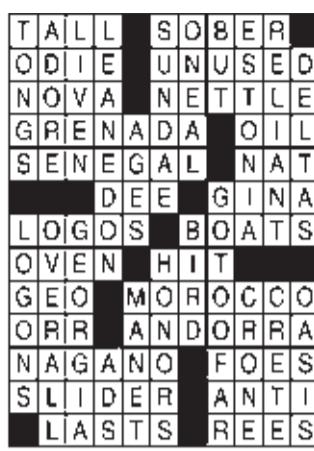
In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

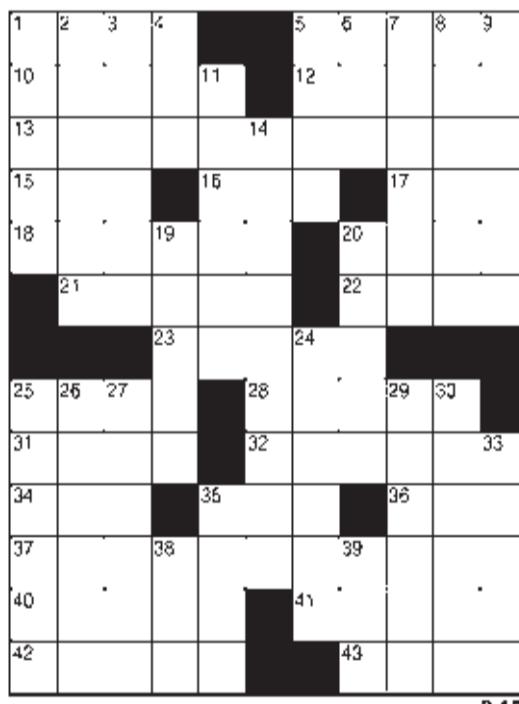
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 41 Fountain
- 1 In addition treat
- 5 Heiress, 42 Pub game at times
- 10 Brings up poems
- 12 Musical set in Argentina
- 13 Botched
- 15 Finish
- 16 Mis-behaving
- 17 Barracks bed
- 18 Searched deeply
- 20 Portion (out)
- 21 Plow pioneer John
- 22 Not new
- 23 Writer Asimov
- 25 Volition
- 28 Uses one's incisors
- 31 Historic times
- 32 Big singing groups
- 34 Try for office
- 35 Homer's cry
- 36 Memorable time
- 37 Caused to look stupid
- 40 Opponent



Yesterday's answer



8-15

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

EBD GRYD JRH UPMD JRHYLDUV.

EBD UDL JRH FYD UPMD

FKJRKD DULD XBPTB GFMDL

JRH HKPCHD. — XFUE SPLKDJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE SUMMER NIGHT IS LIKE A PERFECTION OF THOUGHT.
— WALLACE STEVENS

Breaking down the cost over time might help you decide



Jake Welch looks at a spreadsheet on his computer Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For Jake Welch, getting dressed is one big math problem.

The 36-year-old brand director for an advertising firm calculates the cost-per-wear of his wardrobe by highlighting 200 items in a spreadsheet excluding underwear and socks and meticulously listing the price he paid for each of them as well as how many times he's worn it. He updates the spreadsheet every night on his computer to determine whether his purchases were worth it or not.

Lots of people thought Welch was weird when he started doing this 12 years ago, opting to ditch the cheapest items on the sales rack in favor of maximizing the value of his purchases over the span of their lifecycles. But with inflation still a nagging problem, more shoppers are coming around to his way of thinking.

"I was actually onto something versus being a little looney," said Welch of Erda, Utah, who presented his findings last month at a

company meeting.

Retailers are taking note of this mindset and shifting their marketing strategy in some cases. Gap's Old Navy is offering shoppers a full refund for uniforms purchased during the upcoming back-to-school season if the clothes don't hold up for a year. Retailers like Kohl's and online shirt retailer Untuckit have recently revamped their marketing campaigns particularly for the fall to focus on durability and versatility. American Eagle is touting the "longevity of your most-loved jeans" made of recycled cotton and polyester in an email campaigns to customers. That means a \$200 classic sweater may end up being a better deal if you plan to wear it every week in comparison to a hot pink dress picked up for \$40 that might be worn only once a month.

"Cost-per-wear is another way that they think about how to combat some of the inflation," said Christie Raymond, Kohl's chief marketing officer. "Is this item going to last? Is it going to really be versatile?

For back to school, for example, can my child wear it in a number of different ways?"

Some shoppers are also looking to be more eco-friendly by buying clothes that don't end up in a landfill after being worn a few times.

Still, the cost-per-wear calculation may only make sense for those consumers who can afford to prioritize quality and versatility over price. □

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| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

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| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
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|-------------------|----------|
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| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

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CNN revamps schedule, with new roles for Phillip, Coates, Wallace and Amanpour

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN is emphasizing homegrown stars and reporting chops in a schedule reboot that gives weeknight shows to Abby Phillip and Laura Coates, along with bringing Christiane Amanpour back onto the domestic network regularly.

Virtually no part of the day or weekend goes unchanged in the plans announced on Monday, the first major move by the leadership quartet that replaced ousted network chief Chris Licht on June 1.

Phillip, a political reporter, and Coates, the network's chief legal correspondent, both began at CNN in part-time roles. Soon they'll have back-to-back hours on the network's schedule each weeknight starting at 10 p.m. Eastern.

They'll join Kaitlan Collins at 9 p.m. and Erin Burnett two hours earlier, with Anderson Cooper the only man in the important five-hour stretch that includes prime time. Since Chris Cuomo was fired in December 2021,



This combination of photos show, from left, Erin Burnett, Anderson Cooper and Kaitlan Collins who host back-to-back weeknight shows on CNN beginning at 7 p.m.

CNN hasn't had a regular prime-time lineup, and its new leaders considered it a top priority to project consistency to viewers and employees.

CNN's leadership team of Amy Entelis, David Leavy, Virginia Moseley and Eric Sherling also wanted to install program hosts with experience as reporters.

"They are extraordinarily talented and share the same CNN sensibility: versatility, determination and an inquisitive and empathetic

approach to reporting the news," the leaders said in a statement.

CNN has struggled with ratings challenges worsened by the quickening pulse of people cutting the cord on cable television. In July, Fox News Channel and MSNBC both dominated by opinion programming in the evening averaged 1.57 million and 1.12 million viewers respectively in prime time. CNN averaged 534,000, according to the Nielsen company.

Associated Press

One of CNN's most recognizable veterans, Amanpour has hosted a program on the network's international network and been virtually invisible domestically the past decade. Now she'll host a regular news hour on Saturdays. Since jumping from Fox News, Chris Wallace has hosted a wide-ranging interview show for HBO Max that was rebroadcast on CNN. Now he'll return to familiar turf, a live political panel show, on Saturday

mornings, the network said. Heading into the 2024 campaign, political correspondent Kasie Hunt will host "Early Start" at 5 a.m. on weekdays. Phil Mattingly will be a new co-host with Poppy Harlow on the three-hour "CNN This Morning" show.

"King Charles," a limited-run series with Gayle King and Charles Barkley, will air on Wednesday nights at 9 p.m. Eastern starting this fall, CNN announced.

The show was the centerpiece of Licht's prime-time strategy. He sought well-known personalities who could comment on the news and help CNN compete with more general-interest networks. But except for King and Barkley, the plans never came together and CNN is now abandoning that approach.

Capitol Hill correspondent Manu Raju will become the Sunday anchor of "Inside Politics," under the new plans. Pamela Brown will anchor a weekday afternoon program, while Victor Blackwell has a new Saturday morning program. □

Michael Oher, former NFL tackle known for 'The Blind Side,' sues to end Tuohys' conservatorship

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Michael Oher, the former NFL tackle known for the movie "The Blind Side," filed a petition Monday in a Tennessee probate court accusing Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy of lying to him by having him sign papers making them his conservators rather than his adoptive parents nearly two decades ago.

In the petition filed Monday in Shelby County Probate Court, Oher asks for the conservatorship to be terminated along with asking for a full accounting of the money earned off the use of his name and story.

He also asks to be paid what he is due along with

interest. Oher, who has never been a fan of the movie of his life, also asks in the petition that the Tuohys be sanctioned and required to pay both compensatory

and punitive damages determined by the court.

ESPN.com first reported the petition.

Steve Farese, a lawyer for the Tuohys, told The Asso-

ciated Press that they will file an answer to the allegations in court but he declined to comment further. He was among three attorneys served on behalf of the Tuohys on Monday.

Leigh Anne Tuohy did not immediately respond to an email sent to her personal website.

The movie was nominated for an Oscar, and Sandra Bullock won the Academy Award for her portrayal of Leigh Anne Tuohy.

In the petition, Oher says he only learned in February that the Tuohys remain his conservators.

Oher accuses the Tuohys of never trying to take legal action to assume custody from the Tennessee Department of Human Ser-



Carolina Panthers' Michael Oher speaks to the media during the first day of their NFL football offseason conditioning program in Charlotte, N.C., April 20, 2015.

Associated Press

vices before he turned 18. The conservatorship paperwork was filed Aug. 4, 2004 after Oher turned 18 in May that year. He was the 23rd overall pick in the 2009 draft out of Mississippi, and he spent his first five seasons with the Baltimore Ravens. He wound up playing eight NFL seasons, including 2014 when he started 11 games for the Tennessee Titans. Oher finished his career with two years in Carolina. He started 110 career games and won a Super Bowl with the Ravens. He also finished second in the voting to Percy Harvin of Minnesota for The Associated Press NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year after starting all 16 games his first season at right tackle. □

For Tyronn Lue, this trip to the Basketball World Cup was a long time coming

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tyronn Lue has waited a long time for this trip.

He was supposed to have the USA Basketball logo on his chest on foreign soil long ago 1997, actually, when he was starring as the point guard at Nebraska and picked to represent his country at the men's 22 and under world championships in Australia.

But a nagging right leg injury flared up, causing numbness so severe he couldn't navigate stairs without falling. The team ruled him out, and he flew home alone.

Fast forward 26 years: Lue, the coach of the Los Angeles Clippers, is now wearing the logo overseas. It's not on a jersey, but on polo shirts, as he's part of the staff that will guide the U.S. men's team through the Basketball World Cup in Manila starting later this month. "I think it's an honor," Lue said. "You grow up watching basketball, watching the Olympic team, the Dream Team, you always want to play for those teams. I wasn't good enough, but it's amazing to have an opportunity to represent my country in



From left, coaches Erik Spoelstra of the Miami Heat, Tyronn Lue of the Los Angeles Clippers and Steve Kerr of the Golden State Warriors speak at a practice during training camp for the United States men's basketball team Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

any capacity. So, coaching is what it is."

Golden State's Steve Kerr is the team's head coach; Miami coach Erik Spoelstra and Gonzaga coach Mark Few are alongside Lue as the assistants. The staff also has former NBA coach Jeff Van Gundy helping with scouting and Orlando's Jamahl Mosley was involved during training camp earlier this month in Las Vegas as coach of the select team

that practiced against the World Cup squad.

"We know we have a hell of a coaching staff," U.S. forward Bobby Portis of the Milwaukee Bucks said.

It is a think tank of basketball, and there's a certain irony in that Lue replaced as a player 26 years ago joined this staff as a replacement. Lue was originally tabbed by managing director Grant Hill to be coach of the select team,

but when then-Phoenix coach Monty Williams, now the Detroit coach, had to bow out of his assistant-coach role because of family responsibilities, Lue got asked to join the staff of assistants.

"Monty had his situation and Steve and Grant called me right away and said, 'How would you like to be a part of it?'" Lue said. "And I said, 'Are you serious?' It's a dream come

true. To have an opportunity to coach the USA team, to be around great players and a great staff, it was a no-brainer for me. I felt badly for Monty, but he called me, said I'd have a great experience."

It is not an insignificant commitment that the coaches are making. They'll be together for six or seven weeks, mostly overseas in Spain this past week for two exhibitions, in Abu Dhabi for the next week for two more exhibitions, then it's off to Manila for the World Cup. If the U.S. plays for a medal the team won't be back home until Sept. 12.

That's less than three weeks before NBA training camps start. It means that Kerr, Spoelstra and Lue all coaches of teams that will enter this season with championship aspirations are relying on their staffs to do all the hands-on off-season work while they're gone. "I have a great supporting staff," Lue said. "Our staff, they do a lot. I can delegate and know they're doing a great job while I'm here with USA Basketball." It's just the latest chapter in an upcoming book detailing Lue's basketball story; he is in the process of writing one. □

Rays place Wander Franco on restricted list while MLB investigates social media posts

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — All-Star shortstop Wander Franco and the Tampa Bay Rays have "mutually agreed" that the 22-year-old will go on the restricted list while Major League Baseball looks into social media posts involving the player.

The club made the announcement Monday in the wake of social media posts that began circulating over the weekend. The Rays did not detail the nature of the social media posts.

MLB has launched an investigation, a person familiar with the probe told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made.

Franco did not play in Sunday's home series finale against Cleveland at Tropicana Field and did not accompany the Rays to San Francisco for the start of a six-game road trip that begins Monday night against the Giants.

"The Tampa Bay Rays and Wander Franco have mutually agreed that he will go on the Restricted List and take leave from the club for the duration of the current road trip," the team said in a one-sentence statement.

The road trip, which includes three games against the Giants and three against the Los Angeles Angels, ends next Sunday. The Rays return home to face Colorado on Aug. 22.

"We support any steps taken by the league to better understand the situation," the club said of the MLB investigation. □



Tampa Bay Rays' Wander Franco reacts after being doused by teammates during a television interview after the Rays defeated the Cleveland Guardians in a baseball game Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press



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Georgia begins quest for 3rd straight championship as No. 1 in AP Top 25

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer
Georgia will begin its drive for an unprecedented college football championship three-peat as the No. 1 team in The Associated Press preseason Top 25. The Bulldogs received 60 of 63 first-place votes in the poll released Monday to easily outpoint No. 2 Michigan, which received two first-place votes and has its best preseason rankings since being No. 2 in 1991. The Wolverines' Big Ten rival, Ohio State, is No. 3 with one first-place vote.

Two more Southeastern Conference teams join Georgia in the top five. Alabama is No. 4, the Crimson Tide's lowest preseason ranking in more than a decade, and LSU starts at No. 5, its best preseason ranking since 2016.

The Bulldogs have won the last two national titles while going 29-1, but this will be only the second time in program history they have been preseason No. 1. The first was in 2008.

Georgia started the 2021 season No. 5, before going on to win its first national title since 1980. The Bulldogs followed up with a perfect season in 2022 after being preseason No. 3.

The Bulldogs have had 25 players drafted by NFL teams the last two years, including quarterback Stetson Bennett and All-America defensive tackle Jalen Carter this past April. Coach Kirby Smart has built a program to rival Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty so voters are now giving Georgia the Crimson Tide treatment.

Alabama had been preseason No. 1 each of the



Georgia players celebrate a win over TCU after the national championship NCAA College Football Playoff game, Jan. 9, 2023, in Inglewood, Calif.

last two seasons, and five of the previous seven. Clemson was preseason No. 1 in the other two seasons, making Georgia the first team other than the Tide or Tigers to be preseason No. 1 since Ohio State in 2015. Alabama is also the last team to win back-to-back major college football national championships, doing so in 2011 and '12. No team has won three straight national titles during the AP poll era, which dates to 1936. For the record, Minnesota, the first official AP champion, was retroactively crowned champion for the 1934 and '35 seasons by a couple of organizations. Coach Bernie Bierman's Gophers from long ago are the closest thing major college football has to a three-peater. "We have not addressed that with them," Smart said during SEC media days of chasing college football history. "We've certainly looked at some three-peat scenarios of teams like the Bulls and different sports

teams that they might actually know about. No offense to the Minnesota 1935 team, but I don't know if it's going to resonate with my audience." The Bulldogs are reloading on the defensive front and at quarterback, but do not lack for stars. Tight end Brock Bowers is one of the nation's best players; linebacker Jamon Dumas-Johnson was a second-team All-American; and center Sedrick Van Pran anchors one of the country's most talented offensive lines.

Rounding out the top 10 is Southern California at No. 6, which is the Trojans' best preseason ranking since 2017, followed by Penn State, Florida State, Clemson and Washington.

The Seminoles are back in the preseason rankings for the first time since 2018, and in the top 10 for the first time since 2017.

STARTING ON TOP, STAYING ON TOP

Beware, 'Dawgs. Since the AP preseason poll started in 1950, 11 teams

poll history is 11 for Florida State in 1990-2000. Ohio State has had 11 top-five preseason rankings since 2009.

CONFERENCE CALL

Over the last three years, schools have been redrawing the conference maps. This year, the Big 12 has four new members, the American Athletic Conference has six and Conference USA has four.

The really flashy moves come in 2024.

This season will be the last with Texas and Oklahoma in the Big 12 (before moving to the SEC) and maybe the last with a Pac-12 at all.

USC, UCLA, Oregon and Washington will play in the Big Ten next year while Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah move to the Big 12 as major college football moves toward sprawling super conferences.

Heading into this season the breakdown by conference of teams in the Top 25: SEC 6 (Nos. 1, 4, 5, 12, 22, 23).

Big Ten 5 (Nos. 2, 3, 7, 19, 25). Pac-12 5 (Nos. 6, 10, 14, 15, 18).

Big 12 4 (Nos. 11, 16, 17, 20). ACC 3 (Nos. 8, 9, 21).

American Athletic 1 (No. 24). Independent 1 (No. 13). If sorted by next season's conference alignment the breakdown looks like this:

SEC 8 (Nos. 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 20, 22, 23). Big Ten 8 (Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 15, 19, 25). Big 12 3 (Nos. 14, 16, 17). ACC 3 (Nos. 8, 9, 21).

Pac-12 1 (No. 18 - counts Oregon State as a Pac-12 team). American Athletic 1 (No. 24). Independent 1 (No. 13). □